

REVIEW

by Prof. Dr Julia Dobрева - VUZF

Of dissertation for the granting of scientific degree „**doctor of sciences**”

In area of higher education 3. Social, economic and judicial sciences

Professional field 3.8. Economics

Author: Dr. Mateusz Jan Kaczmarek

Тема: *„Conditions for socio-economic development of the regions in Poland considering the sustainable development of rural regions and mountainous and sub-mountainous territories“*

1. General description of the submitted materials

By order No. 109 of 01.03.2023. of the Rector of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance, Prof. Doctor of Law Boris Velchev, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a procedure for the defense of a dissertation work on the topic "Conditions for socio-economic development of regions in Poland, with a view to the sustainable development of rural regions and mountainous and sub-mountainous territories" for the acquisition of scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in Higher Education field 3. Social, economic and legal sciences, Professional direction 3.8. Economy. The author of the dissertation is Dr. Mateusz Jan Kaczmarek - a candidate for the Department of Finance and Insurance.

The materials submitted by Dr. Mateusz Jan Kaczmarek include documents according to the presented list: dissertation work, abstract, autobiography, copy of the diploma for the acquired educational and qualification degree "doctor", list of scientific contributions, list of publications, list of the fulfilment of the minimum requirements for the Doctor of Sciences in Higher Education and the Regulations for its implementation, summaries of the publications.

The candidate has submitted a published book based on the dissertation work, 8 articles and 7 co-authored studies published in refereed and indexed editions, 3 studies in non-refereed editions and

one chapter of a collective monograph. There are 700 points of citations. I accept the presented 7 studies in refereed editions as articles, since they do not meet the requirements of the Higher Education Institution for the "study" category.

In the totality of the presented materials, the candidate exceeds the required minimum number of points according to the scientific-metric criteria of Higher Education.

2.Short biographical data of the applicant

Dr. Mateusz Jan Kaczmarek has 13 years of experience in teaching at a professional university, conducting research and cooperating with the socio-economic environment, as well as 2 years of experience in the management of the Jan Grodek State University in Sanok, where he is currently also the rector of the university (from 2020). In addition, he has: 4 years of experience in the management of the Institute of Agriculture and Forestry and 2 years of experience in the management of the Department of Agriculture working in the Institute of Agriculture and Forestry; extensive experience in conducting scientific projects funded by the European Union; coordination of Erasmus+ cooperation.

3. Relevance of the topic and appropriateness of the set goals and tasks

In the dissertation, regional development is evaluated from the perspective of socio-economic and sustainable development of rural areas. It is particularly interesting and valuable that the focus of the study is the mountain and foothill regions, which are undergoing a process of rapid marginalization. The development of the regions in Poland has been assessed simultaneously in two different territorial dimensions - voivodships and rural areas, which is a significant new research contribution.

The research is up-to-date as it examines the issues of regional and local development, with a specific emphasis on the socio-economic development of Poland's regions in 2007-2019 and the sustainable development of rural, mountain and sub-mountain areas.

The analysis is distinguished by a detailed research methodology, including subject, object, objectives, hypothesis, research methods. The thesis and working hypotheses of the dissertation research are specifically and clearly defined and are proven in the course of the research. The study contains well-founded scientific results, from which the author's contribution can be clearly traced.

4. Knowledge of the problem

Doctor of Science candidate Dr. Mateusz Kaczmarski demonstrates in-depth knowledge of the problem and skills in evaluating literary material.

The main thesis of the dissertation work has been successfully proven in the research, namely: "the socio-economic development of the regions and the sustainable development of the rural and mountain and foothill regions of Poland in 2007-2019 are territorially diversified and conditioned by factors and barriers to development'. The study also considers the impact of the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Rural Development Program (RDP) for 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 on the sustainable development of rural and mountain and foothill areas in Poland, as thus fulfills the primary research objective, namely "to assess the socio-economic development of the regions and the sustainable development of the rural and mountain and foothill regions of Poland in 2007-2019." The results of the research help to organize and classify the voivodeships according to a synthetic indicator of development. On this basis, a diagnosis of the economic and social difficulties and barriers determining the occurrence of disparities in regional development in Poland was carried out.

5. Methodology of the research

The following research methods were applied in the study: Helwig's synthetic index of development, Pearson's correlation coefficient and the author's questionnaire. To assess the territorial diversity of the voivodeships, 7 categories are taken into account, which are represented by 47 variables diagnosing the socio-economic development of the regions and 35 variables diagnosing the level of development of rural areas.

I accept the methods as appropriate and aimed at achieving the outlined goals.

6. Characteristics and evaluation of the dissertation

The dissertation covers 275 pages and includes a title page, table of contents, introduction, seven sections, conclusion, bibliography, lists of tables, figures, graphs and statistical appendix. The bibliography of the dissertation contains a total of 297 titles, including 286 monographs, studies and scientific articles.

The dissertation contains 72 tables, 42 figures and 6 graphs.

The first section, which contains five subsections, presents the theoretical situations and problems of regional development, as well as problems related to the development of rural areas, including mountain and sub-mountain areas. The second section discusses the methodological premises of the author's own research. The third section, consisting of five subsections, assesses the differentiation of the level of socio-economic development of Poland's regions, as well as the sustainable development of rural and mountain and foothill regions of Poland in 2007, 2015 and 2019. In addition, the voivodships and rural areas are arranged by region according to the Helwig synthetic development indicator in 2007, 2015 and 2019 and their classification according to the level of development achieved. The fourth section, containing four subsections, assesses the impact of sustainable development of rural areas on the economic activity of rural residents, newly registered business entities, the area of personal business plots and the average monthly disposable income. The fifth section, which consists of two sub-sections, assesses the impact of innovation and research activity in the voivodships on the balance of migration and own tax revenue from legal entities per capita. The sixth section, which consists of two subsections, assesses the impact of the Common Agricultural Policy 2014–2020 and the Rural Development Program 2014–2020 on the sustainable development of mountain and sub-mountain regions in Poland. The last section defines and synthesizes the determinants of the socio-economic development of the voivodeships in Poland, as well as the sustainable development of rural, mountain and foothill areas. This section also presents recommendations for shaping the socio-economic development of regions and the sustainable development of rural, mountain and foothill areas in Poland.

The bibliography of the dissertation contains a total of 297 titles, including 286 monographs, studies and scientific articles; source of statistical data. The study includes 72 tables, 42 figures and 6 graphs.

7. Contributions and significance of the development for science and practice

In the research, I can single out the following contributions:

1. Recommendations for the implementation of policies for regional and rural development, with a special emphasis on the mountain and foothill regions of Poland.

2. Emphasis is placed on the significance of institutions for stimulating the development process and its creation through effective implementation of development policies. The development process of the regions must be territorially oriented.

3. An essential contribution of the dissertation work is to outline the main key aspects on which the socio-economic development of the regions and the sustainable development of the rural areas in Poland should be focused, which include the use of the internal potential of the regions, the reduction of the depopulation of the regions, the development of entrepreneurship and innovation, investments for technical infrastructure, etc.

4. The opinion of the inhabitants of the mountain and foothill regions was also investigated through a survey, based on which it was established that the priorities and activities within the PRDP for 2014-2020. and CAP targets for 2014-2020 have had a "neutral" impact on rural development in mountain and sub-mountain regions. The participants in the survey who do not live in mountain and foothill areas perceive the "rather positive" impact of the CAP and PRDP on the development of these territories;

8. Review of the publications supporting the dissertation

The candidate has submitted a published book based on the dissertation work, 15 co-authored articles published in refereed and indexed editions, 3 studies in non-refereed editions and one chapter of a collective monograph.

9. Assessment of compliance with minimum national requirements

The submitted materials prove that the candidate fulfills the minimum national requirements for obtaining the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in the professional direction 3.8. Economy.

10. Personal involvement of the candidate

In the dissertation work, the candidate's personal participation in the conducted dissertation research is evident, as well as in the formulated contributions and obtained results. No plagiarism detected.

11. Abstract

The abstract meets the requirements in terms of content and quality. It is made according to the requirements and reflects the main results achieved in the dissertation work.

12. Critical remarks and recommendations

I have the following remarks and recommendations to the presented dissertation work:

1. The research covers the period 2007-2019. It is necessary to add up-to-date data for the period 2020-2022.
2. A list of the scientific and practical-applied contributions of the dissertation work is missing, which should be clearly highlighted and listed in the abstract.

The study could be updated with data for the period after 2019, highlighting the exogenous factors affecting regional development, the impact of the Covid 19 crisis, as well as the immigrant refugee wave as a result of the war in Ukraine.

In the abstract, it is necessary to highlight the contributions of the research more clearly.

13. Personal impressions

I do not know the candidate and have no personal impressions.

CONCLUSION

The dissertation contains scientific, scientific-applied and applied results, which represent an original contribution to science and meet the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria (ZRASRB) and the Regulations for the Implementation of ZRASRB. The presented materials and research results in the dissertation correspond to the specific requirements of the regulations of the Higher School of Insurance and Finance.

The dissertation shows that the candidate, Dr. Mateusz Jan Kachmarski, has in-depth theoretical knowledge and professional skills in Professional Direction 3. 8. Economics, demonstrating qualities and skills for independent research.

Due to the above, I confidently give my positive assessment of the conducted research, presented by the above-reviewed dissertation work, abstract, achieved results and contributions, and I propose to the honorable scientific jury to award the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" to Dr. Mateusz Jan Kaczarski in the field of higher education 3. Social, economic and legal sciences; Professional direction 3. 8. Economics;

05.04. 2023

Reviewer:

Prof Dr. Julia Dobreva